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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences was held at the National Museum in Washington on April 25, 26 and 27, with an attendance of about seventy of the some two hundred members and a scientific program of forty papers. The programs always maintain high scientific standards, but the different papers vary in interest, being sometimes discussions of new advances of concern to all and sometimes technical accounts of special investigations. In recent years an evening address of general interest has been arranged for the annual meeting, which was given this year by the Prince of Monaco, who came to the United States to receive the Agassiz medal conferred upon him last year by the academy.

In his address, Prince Albert described his oceanographic investigations for which he built and equipped four yachts, the *Hirondelle* I and II, and the *Princess Alice* I and II. The first *Hirondelle* of 1885 was a schooner of 200 tons and the second *Hirondelle* of 1911 is a steel steamer of 1,650 tons. With these yachts he had explored the sea from the Canaries to Spitzbergen. Apparatus had been devised for sounding the depths of the ocean and the upper air. In his voyages extensive explorations had been carried out, including oceanic soundings to a depth of 20,000 feet, and drag-net catches to a depth of 18,000 feet. Prince Albert also referred briefly to his explorations of the caves of southern France and northern Spain, which have brought to light a series of mural paintings by the men of the Old Stone Age. To house the collections of his sea and land explora-

tions he has erected two museums, one at Monaco for ocean life and one at Paris for early human remains and works of art. At the annual dinner, President Walcott in awarding the Agassiz medal, told of the desire expressed by Sir John Murray, on his visit to this country, to leave a fund to commemorate Alexander Agassiz, which took the form of the Agassiz Gold Medal for "original contributions to the science of oceanography"; and Dr. W. H. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution, described the scientific researches of the Prince of Monaco in the investigation of ocean currents and ocean life, including voyages in his especially equipped yachts from the Azores to the Arctic. Other medals of the academy were presented as follows: To Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of the academy, the first award of the Mary Clark Thompson Medal for distinguished achievement in geology and paleontology; to Dr. P. Zeeman, of Amsterdam, Holland, the Henry Draper Gold Medal for eminence in investigations in astronomical physics; to Rear Admiral C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., retired, the Agassiz Gold Medal for eminence in investigations in oceanography; to Dr. Robert Ridgway, the Daniel Giraud Elliot Gold Medal for his studies of the birds of North America; to Dr. C. W. Stiles, the Gold Medal for eminence in the application of science to the public welfare, in recognition of his work on the hookworm disease.

Dr. Albert Einstein, to whom Columbia University last year awarded the Barnard medal on the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences, was present at the meeting. He was welcomed by President Walcott in the following words:

It is a happy privilege to greet you on behalf of the National Academy



PRESIDENT HARDING, PROFESSOR AND MRS. EINSTEIN AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT THE WHITE HOUSE

of Sciences. The academy rejoices to bring its tribute of homage to the brilliant and penetrating mind which has so greatly enriched the philosophy of ultimate truth. We congratulate you on the universal appreciation of your investigations which has outrun and overleaped the limitations and barriers associated with nationalities and with the times. To men everywhere your name, in association with the abstruse subject of your investigations, has become a household word. We welcome you to our scientific meetings and especially to the social hours which intervene, during which the members of the academy hope to have the pleasure of meeting and learning to know you as a friend.

In reply Professor Einstein in substance said:

It gives me great pleasure to meet here so considerable a part of the scientific investigators of America and to become personally acquainted with them. I thank you for your friendly invitation and for the very hearty reception which has been accorded me. The appreciation of my scientific work, which has just been expressed, embarrasses me. When a man after long years of searching chances upon a thought which discloses something of the beauty of this mysterious universe, he should not therefore be personally celebrated. He is already sufficiently paid by his experience of seeking and finding. In science, moreover, the work of the individual is so bound up with that of his scientific predecessors and contemporaries that it appears almost as an impersonal product of his generation. The fact of this close spiritual association leads me to the last point that I have upon my heart to say. Our perturbed time has through the action of political misfortune partly impaired that community of labor that is so important for science. I should like to express the hope that the field of activity of scientific men may be reunited and that the whole world will soon again be bound together by common work.

ELECTIONS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

At the business session of the academy the president, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, presented his resignation,

but at the earnest request of the academy, he consented to serve the remaining two years of his term. The resignation of the foreign secretary, Dr. George E. Hale, was accepted with regret, and with the expression of high appreciation of his able work in that office. Dr. R. A. Millikan was elected foreign secretary, to complete the unexpired term of Dr. Hale. Dr. Hale was elected a member of the council, and Dr. Raymond Pearl was reelected.

The following were elected to membership:

Frank Michler Chapman, American Museum of Natural History.

William LeRoy Emmet, General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

William Draper Harkins, University of Chicago.

Ales Hrdlicka, United States National Museum.

Arthur Edwin Kennelly, Harvard University.

William George MacCallum, Johns Hopkins University.

Dayton Clarence Miller, Case School of Applied Science.

George Abram Miller, University of Illinois.

Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, Harvard University.

Vesto Melvin Slipher, Lowell Observatory.

Lewis Buckley Stillwell, 100 Broadway, New York.

Thomas Wayland Vaughan, United States Geological Survey.

Donald Dexter Van Slyke, Rockefeller Institute.

Henry Stephens Washington, Geophysical Laboratory.

Robert Sessions Woodworth, Columbia University.

Foreign Associates

William Bateson, John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton Park, Surrey, England.

C. Eijkman, University of Utrecht, Holland.